

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

In an effort to overcome the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection, Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the communications means is electronic. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim 14 has further been amended to recite that the prevalidation value represents at least a quotient of a modulo calculation. Moreover, the prevalidation value is utilized by the verifier entity to perform at least one modular reduction to obtain the remainder of the modulo calculation, without any division operation at the level of the verifier entity.

Ebihara, Menezes, Poore, and Liskov are used to support various rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. These references however, take either alone or in combination, at least fail to teach or suggest the above recited features. In that none of the references teach or suggest these features, the references fail to anticipate and/or render obvious Claim 14. The remaining claims that depend therefrom are also patentably distinguishable for at least the features recited therein.

With all outstanding rejections having been overcome, Applicants respectfully request the Office to issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2146-906752) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is

required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JHV:jab

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